

**Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board
July 26, 2019**

Staff Report

Section 7001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act 2014 Submittals

1.0 – ITEM

Consider authorizing staff to submit letters of support and to complete an online proposal form as required by Section 7001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) 2014 in support of continued study authority for four feasibility studies in the Central Valley.

2.0 – SECTION 7001 OF WRRDA 2014

Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014, as amended, requires that the Secretary of the Army annually submit a report to Congress that is based, in part, on annual requests for proposals for authorization from non-Federal interests. The report identifies, for potential congressional authorization, completed feasibility reports, proposed feasibility studies submitted by non-Federal interests, proposed modifications to authorized water resources development projects or feasibility studies, and proposed modifications to environmental infrastructure program authorities.

3.0 – FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The feasibility studies that staff recommends being included in the staff submittal include:

Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study

The City of Woodland (City) is implementing flood risk reduction measures along Lower Cache Creek and the Cache Creek Settling Basin (CCSB). The measures will be applied to the flood control system in the CCSB that protects significant portions of the City, Interstate 5, and low-lying lands within Yolo County that are both north and southeast of the City. The area is subject to possible flooding from a levee failure along the lower right bank of Cache Creek. The leveed portion of Cache Creek discharges into the CCSB. Cache Creek has historically carried a large sediment load, and the

settling basin was constructed to prevent sediment carried by Cache Creek from entering the Yolo Bypass and diminishing its flood conveyance capacity.

The Woodland urban area is in Yolo County. There has been significant urban growth and as of 2010, the population of the county was 58,000. In addition, there are new commercial and educational facilities under construction. State Route 113 and Interstate 5 (I-5) intersect this Urban Area.

Cache Creek Settling Basin

The 1987 General Design Memo by USACE regarding the Lower Cache Creek Sedimentation Basin authorized significant improvements to the basin, including constructing the current outlet weir. It also authorized future work, approximately 25 years from then, to include raising the same outlet weir by 6-feet because of diminished basin capacity due to projected sedimentation. The future work authorized was anticipated to be 2017.

In 2014, the Board requested the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to undertake a General Reevaluation Report for the CCSB. While the basin is currently able to exceed the trapping efficiency requirements in the existing O&M manual, the study is necessary to determine what steps should be taken in the near future to ensure the basin's continued performance.

Reclamation District 17

During the Plan Formulation Phase of Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study (LSJRFS) the three alternatives that included Reclamation District (RD-17) flood risk reduction (FRR) improvements were ultimately screened out based on non-compliance with federal policy (EO 11988). Planned development within the Mossdale Tract of RD 17 made it difficult for USACE to determine how to apply EO 11988 guidance for growth in the floodplain. City of Lathrop and Stockton have now revised their general plans to comply with the Delta Plan and no longer show any growth beyond their current spheres of influence in the Mossdale Tract.

RD-17 levees provide flood protection to over 44,700 people and approximately \$5.2 billion dollars' worth of assets. Facilities protected from flooding by RD-17 levees include Interstate 5, State Highway 120, San Joaquin General Hospital, San Joaquin County Jail, San Joaquin County Honor Farm, San Joaquin County Juvenile Hall, two high schools, six elementary schools, and 28 facilities that house/provide services to

vulnerable populations that would need special assistance during an evacuation due to flooding.

Merced County General Reevaluation Report

The non-Federal Sponsors, the Board and Merced County requested Merced County Streams General Reevaluation Report (Report) in September 2015. The purpose of the Report is to investigate alternatives to improve the level of flood protection for the City of Merced and surrounding agricultural lands to ensure that the affected urban and rural areas receive an appropriate level of flood protection from the storm flows of Black Rascal and Bear Creeks and their tributaries. Presently, several areas of Merced County only have a 50-year level of flood protection. Rapid urbanization is increasing serious flooding problems that exist along the streams draining from the Sierra Nevada Mountains into the county.

Merced County is protected by State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) facilities along Mariposa, Owens, and Bear Creeks, and the Merced River. Approximately 83,000 people and 3,328 acres are protected by approximately 151 miles of SPFC levees. Merced County and the City of Merced need to execute a JPA to ensure there is a viable local agency responsible for both capital improvements and operations and maintenance.

Middle Creek Flood Risk Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration

The Middle Creek Flood Risk Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project (Project) was authorized for construction in WRDA 2001, Public Law 110-114 Section 1001, Paragraph 11: "MIDDLE CREEK, LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. The project for flood damage reduction and environmental restoration, Middle Creek, Lake County, California: Report of the Chief of Engineers dated November 29, 2004."

The Project will degrade levees to create more frequently inundated floodplain habitat. Lake County is in the process of purchasing land behind the levees and has received approximately \$23 million in State funding to acquire the remaining land to allow the area to flood. Land acquisition will continue for several years before the project is ready for federal appropriations for construction.

4.0 – SECTION 7001 SUBMITTALS

Submittal of information supporting continued study authority for the studies described above does not require new authorizations from the USACE, as these studies have

already been authorized. The submitted information is only intended to ensure the USACE that the non-federal sponsor, the Board, continues to support these important flood risk reduction studies.

5.0 – STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Board:

- **Approve:** Staff submitting information as allowed by Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014; and
- **Delegate:** The Executive Officer to sign and send support letters to the USACE for the studies listed above.

Document Preparation: Greg Harvey, Chief, Plan Implementation and Compliance Branch

Document Review: Michael C. Wright, PE, Chief Engineer
Legal Review: Sarah Backus, Staff Counsel